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DIGEO, INC C/O STOEL RIVES LLP 201 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 1100 ONE UTAH CENTER SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111			VU, NGOC K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2611	

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/893,353

Applicant(s)

CHANG, GLEN C.

Examiner

Ngoc K. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,7-16,19,21-25,29-41,43,46-49 and 51-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,7-16,19,21-25,29-41,43,46-49 and 51-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 11/28/2005 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-16, 19, 21-25, 29-41, 43, 46-49 and 51-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ellis et al. (US 20050251827 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Ellis discloses a method of executing function in an interactive television system (primary user television equipment – see figure 3), the method comprising:

associating each of a plurality of functions (pay-per-view features, messaging features, parental control features, set up features...etc) of an interactive television system with a room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc) corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see 0010-0015);

displaying an interactive menu displaying the plurality of room identifiers (it is noted that a parent/user may be presented with select location screen including the plurality of locations corresponding to the physical rooms as illustrated in figure 13 after selecting selection location option 206 from menu 200 in figure 18a – see figures 13, 18a and 0098-0100);

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in response to a selection of a particular room identifier, allowing a user to select the function associated with the particular room identifier (the user can choose a specific location or room from the select location option 206 to apply parental control feature, i.e., channel block, to that specific location or room – see 0098 and figure 18a); and

in response to the function being selected, executing the function within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 2, Ellis discloses that the function includes at least one feature associated with the particular room identifier (for example, applying parental control feature to the specific location or room – 0098).

Regarding claim 5, Ellis discloses requiring verification input (i.e., enter password) if the particular room identifier is a restricted room identifier (for example, accessing parental control in a master room – see 0095-0096, 0012 and figure 15).

Regarding claim 7, Ellis discloses customizing a feature in one of the functions (for example, setup language, audio or volume – see figures 31-33).

Regarding claim 8, Ellis discloses setting the feature in one of active state or inactive state (placing “X” for blocking a channel – see figures 18a-18b).

Regarding claim 9, Ellis shows that additional video is displayed with a representation of the feature (pop-up program listing display 256 – see figure 20).

Regarding claim 10, Ellis shows that additional text is displayed with a representation of

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the feature (for example, "Holiday Entertaining" displayed with pop-up program listing display 256 as shown in figure 20).

Regarding claim 11, Ellis discloses creating a personal room function associated with a restricted-access location in the environment of the interactive television system (designating the "parent room" as a master location or restricted-access location in the house – 0093).

Regarding claim 12, Ellis discloses activating at least one feature associated with the personal room function (see 0072, 0089).

Regarding claim 13, Ellis discloses an article of manufacture, comprising: a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions (it is noted that set top box of primary user television equipment contains a processor to handle tasks or execute instructions/software – see 0064) to:

associating a function (pay-per-view features, messaging features, parental control features, or set up features...etc) with a particular room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), the particular room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see 0010-0015);

providing an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers including the particular room identifiers (it is noted that a parent/user may be presented with select location screen including a plurality of locations corresponding to a plurality of physical rooms as illustrated in figure 13 after selecting selection location option 206 from menu 200 in figure 18a – see figures 13, 18a and 0098-0100);

in response to a selection of a particular room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room or guest's room...etc), displaying an option to select the function associated with the particular room identifier (the user can choose a specific location or room from the select

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location option 206 to apply parental control feature, i.e., channel block, to that specific location or room – see 0098 and figure 18a); and

in response to the function being selected, executing the function within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 14, Ellis discloses an apparatus for executing a function in an interactive television system (it is noted that set top box of primary user television equipment contains a processor to handle tasks or execute instructions/software – see 0064), the apparatus comprising:

means for associating a function (pay-per-view features, messaging features, parental control features, or set up features...etc) with a particular room identifier (parent's room, children's room, or guest's room...etc), the particular room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see 0010-0015);

means for providing an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers including the particular room identifiers (it is noted that a parent/user may be presented with select location screen including a plurality of locations corresponding to a plurality of physical rooms as illustrated in figure 13 after selecting selection location option 206 from menu 200 in figure 18a – see figures 13, 18a and 0098-0100);

means for responding to a selection of a particular room identifier, displaying an option to select the function associated with the particular room identifier (the user can choose a specific location or room from the select location option 206 to apply parental control feature, i.e., channel block, to that specific location or room – see 0098 and figure 18a); and

communicatively coupled to the associating means, means for executing the function, in response to the function being selected, the function executing within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 15, Ellis discloses a method of organizing information in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

displaying a function that is associated with a particular room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room, or guest's room...etc), the particular room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see 0010-0015);

providing an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers including the particular room identifiers (it is noted that a parent/user may be presented with select location screen including a plurality of locations corresponding to a plurality of physical rooms as illustrated in figure 13 after selecting selection location option 206 from menu 200 in figure 18a – see figures 13, 18a and 0098-0100);

in response to a selection of a particular room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), displaying an option to select the function associated with the particular room identifier (the user can choose a specific location or room from the select location option 206 to apply parental control feature, i.e., channel block, to that specific location or room – see 0098 and figure 18a); and

in response to the function being selected, executing the function within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 16, Ellis discloses that the function includes at least one feature associated with the particular room identifier (for example, applying parental control feature to children room – 0098).

Regarding claim 19, Ellis discloses requiring verification input (i.e., enter password) if the particular room identifier is a restricted room identifier (for example, accessing parental control in a master room – see 0095-0096, 0012 and figure 15).

Regarding claim 21, Ellis discloses customizing a feature in one of the functions (for example, setup language, audio or volume – see figures 31-33).

Regarding claim 22, Ellis discloses setting the feature in one of active state or inactive state (placing “X” for blocking a channel – see figures 18a-18b).

Regarding claim 23, Ellis shows that additional video is displayed with a representation of the feature (pop-up program listing display 256 – see figure 20).



Regarding claim 24, Ellis shows that additional text is displayed with a representation of the feature (for example, "Holiday Entertaining" displayed with pop-up program listing display 256 as shown in figure 20).

Regarding claim 25, Ellis discloses creating a personal room function associated with a restricted-access location in the environment of the interactive television system (designating the "parent room" as a master location or restricted-access location in the house – 0093).

Regarding claim 26, Ellis discloses activating at least one feature associated with the personal room function (see 0072, 0089).

Regarding claim 29, Ellis discloses a method of organizing information in an interactive television system (primary user television equipment – see figure 3), the method comprising:

providing an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers (i.e., parent's room, children's room, or guest's room...etc), the room identifiers corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see figure 13);

in response to a selection of a room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), displaying a settings menu with a plurality of functions (the user can choose a specific location or room from the select location option 206 to apply parental control feature, i.e., block or hide channels, to that specific location or room – see 0098-0099 and figures 18a-b);

selecting one of the functions in the settings menu (channel block or hide – see 0098-0099);

if the selected function corresponds to a personalized room identifier (for example, accessing to parental control features corresponding to a children's room or an assigned room), then requiring a verification input (entering password), and if the verification input is valid, then

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activating the selected function (i.e., blocking or hiding the channels - 0095-0096, 0012 and figures 15 and 17);

if the selection function does not correspond to a personalized room identifier (i.e., all rooms), then activating the selected function (applying blocking or hiding the channels feature – see 0098-0100 and figure 18a-18b); and

if the activated function is customizable, then permitting input of a name for the activated function and a directory path to an application associated with the activated function (it is noted that the user can access parental control screen 190 of figure 16 and may use remote control 54 to navigate between options such as set channels option, set maximum rating, and monitor viewing. If the user selects set channels option, the program guide provides the user with an opportunity to set which channels are to be blocked or hidden – see 0096-0099),

wherein the activated functions occurs within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the activated function occurs within the primary user television equipment rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 30, Ellis discloses an article of manufacture, comprising: a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions (it is noted that set top box of primary user television equipment contains a processor to handle tasks or execute instructions/software – see 0064) to:

providing an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers (i.e., parent's room, children's room, or guest's room...etc), the room identifiers corresponding to a physical

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room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see figure 13);

in response to a selection of a room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), displaying a settings menu with a plurality of functions (the user can choose a specific location or room from the select location option 206 to apply parental control feature, i.e., block or hide channels, to that specific location or room – see 0098-0099 and figures 18a-b);

selecting one of the functions in the settings menu (channel block or hide – see 0098-0099);

if the selected function corresponds to a personalized room identifier (for example, accessing to parental control features corresponding to a children's room or an assigned room), then requiring a verification input (entering password), and if the verification input is valid, then activating the selected function (i.e., blocking or hiding the channels - 0095-0096, 0012 and figures 15 and 17);

if the selection function does not correspond to a personalized room identifier (i.e., all rooms), then activating the selected function (applying blocking or hiding the channels feature – see 0098-0100 and figure 18a-18b); and

if the activated function is customizable, then permitting input of a name for the activated function and a directory path to an application associated with the activated function (it is noted that the user can access parental control screen 190 of figure 16 and may use remote control 54 to navigate between options such as set channels option, set maximum rating, and monitor viewing. If the user selects set channels option, the program guide provides the user with an opportunity to set which channels are to be blocked or hidden – see 0096-0099),

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wherein the activated functions occurs within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the activated function occurs within the primary user television equipment rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 31, Ellis discloses an apparatus for organizing information in an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

means for providing an interactive menu displaying a plurality of room identifiers (i.e., parent's room, children's room, or guest's room...etc), the room identifiers corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see figure 13);

means for responding to a selection of a room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), displaying a settings menu with a plurality of functions (the user can choose a specific location or room from the select location option 206 to apply parental control feature, i.e., block or hide channels, to that specific location or room – see 0098-0099 and figures 18a-b);

communicatively coupled to the means for displaying the settings menu, means for selecting one of the functions in the settings menu (channel block or hide – see 0098-0099);

communicatively coupled to the means for selecting one of the functions, means for requiring a verification input (entering password) if the selected function corresponds to a personalized room identifier (for example, accessing to parental control features corresponding to a children's room or an assigned room) and for activating the selected function if the

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verification input is valid (i.e., blocking or hiding the channels - 0095-0096, 0012 and figures 15 and 17);

communicatively coupled to the means for selecting one of the functions, means for activating the selected function (applying blocking or hiding the channels feature) if the selected function does not correspond to a personalized room identifier (i.e., all rooms) (see 0098-0100 and figure 18a-18b); and

communicatively coupled to the means for permitting the function, means for permitting input of a name for the activated function and a directory path to an application associated with the activated function if the activated function is customizable (it is noted that the user can access parental control screen 190 of figure 16 and may use remote control 54 to navigate between options such as set channels option, set maximum rating, and monitor viewing. If the user selects set channels option, the program guide provides the user with an opportunity to set which channels are to be blocked or hidden – see 0096-0099),

wherein the activated functions occurs within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the activated function occurs within the primary user television equipment rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 32. Ellis discloses a method of processing information in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

checking a settings table to determine active functions and inactive functions (blocked channel is presented by an “X”), the active functions and the inactive functions corresponding to

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room identifiers corresponding to physical rooms in a home (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc);

displaying each active function (see figures 18a-18b);

selecting one of the active functions (channel block or hide – see 0098-0099);

if the selected function corresponds to a personalized room identifier (for example, accessing to parental control features corresponding to a children's room or an assigned room), then requiring a verification input (entering password), and if the verification input is valid, then activating the selected function (i.e., blocking or hiding the channels - 0095-0096, 0012 and figures 15 and 17);

if the selection function does not correspond to a personalized room identifier (i.e., all rooms), then activating the selected function (applying blocking or hiding the channels feature – see 0098-0100 and figure 18a-18b); and

selecting at least one of the active features and executing the selected active feature within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the activated function occurs within the primary user television equipment rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 33, Ellis discloses an article of manufacture, comprising: a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions (it is noted that set top box of primary user television equipment contains a processor to handle tasks or execute instructions/software – see 0064) to:

checking a settings table to determine active functions and inactive functions (blocked channel is presented by an "X"), the active functions and the inactive functions corresponding to

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room identifiers corresponding to physical rooms in a home (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc);

displaying each active function (see figures 18a-18b);

selecting one of the active functions (channel block or hide – see 0098-0099);

if the selected function corresponds to a personalized room identifier (for example, accessing to parental control features corresponding to a children's room or an assigned room), then requiring a verification input (entering password), and if the verification input is valid, then activating the selected function (i.e., blocking or hiding the channels - 0095-0096, 0012 and figures 15 and 17);

if the selection function does not correspond to a personalized room identifier (i.e., all rooms), then activating the selected function (applying blocking or hiding the channels feature – see 0098-0100 and figure 18a-18b); and

selecting at least one of the active features and executing the selected active feature within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the activated function occurs within the primary user television equipment rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 34, Ellis discloses an apparatus for processing information in an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

means for checking a settings table to determine active functions and inactive functions (blocked channel is presented by an "X"), the active functions and the inactive functions corresponding to room identifiers corresponding to physical rooms in a home (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc);

communicatively coupled to the checking means, means for displaying each active function (see figures 18a-18b);

communicatively coupled to the displaying means, means for selecting one of the active functions (channel block or hide – see 0098-0099);

communicatively coupled to the selecting means, means for requiring a verification input (entering password) if the selected function corresponds to a personalized room identifier (for example, accessing to parental control features corresponding to a children's room or an assigned room) and for activating the selected function if the verification input is valid (i.e., blocking or hiding the channels - 0095-0096, 0012 and figures 15 and 17);

communicatively coupled to the selecting means, means for displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected active function (applying blocking or hiding the channels feature) if the selected function does not correspond to a personalized room identifier (i.e., all rooms) (see 0098-0100 and figure 18a-18b); and

communicatively coupled to the selecting means, means for selecting at least one of the active features and for executing the selected active feature within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the activated function occurs within the primary user television equipment rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 33, Ellis discloses an apparatus for enabling a user interface in an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

a set top box (within primary user television equipment – see figures 3 & 6)  
communicatively coupled to a display device (92 – see figure 6) and capable to transmit



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television signals to a display devices, the set top box including a user interface engine capable to display a function associated with a particular room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), the particular room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see 0010-0015), the user interface engine further cable to display an interactive menu having a plurality of room identifiers (as shown in figure 13) including the particular room identifier and in response to a selection of the particular room identifiers, display an option to select the function (it is noted that a parent/user may be presented with select location screen including the plurality of locations corresponding to the physical rooms as illustrated in figure 13 after selecting selection location option 206 from menu 200 in figure 18a – see figures 13, 18a and 0098-0100);

the set top box further including a controller (processor) capable to execute the user interface engine and to execute the function in response to the function being selected, the executed function occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the executed function occurs within the primary user television equipment rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 36, Ellis discloses that the function includes at least one feature associated with the particular room identifier (for example, applying parental control feature to the specific location or room – 0098).

Regarding claim 37, Ellis teaches that the controller or processor handles tasks associated with implementation a program guide application in response to a selection of the feature (see 0064, 0069).

Regarding claim 38, Ellis discloses selection of the feature provides information associated with the selected feature (e.g., parental control - see 0069).

Regarding claim 39, Ellis discloses requiring verification input (i.e., enter password) if the particular room identifier is a restricted room identifier (for example, accessing parental control in a master room – see 0095-0096, 0012 and figure 15).

Regarding claim 40, Ellis discloses setting the feature in one of active state or inactive state (placing “X” for blocking a channel – see figures 18a-18b).

Regarding claim 41, Ellis discloses an apparatus for enabling a user interface in an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

- a remote control device (54) capable to transmit command signals (see figure 1; 0066);
- a controller (within set top box) capable to execute a function in response to a selection of the function; and

- a user interface engine (within set top box) executable by the controller in response to command signals from the remote control device to permit access to a function (i.e., parental control) associated with a particular room identifier (i.e., parent’s room, children’s room, guest’s room...etc), the particular room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see 0095-0100, 0010-0015, 0072 and figures 18a-18b),

wherein the executed function occurs within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the executed function occurs within the primary user television equipment rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0072, 0089, 0095-0100).

Regarding claim 43, Ellis discloses an apparatus for providing to a user of an interactive television system, a home style user interface that is organized according to a plurality of rooms in a home (see figures 1, 3 & 6), the apparatus comprising:

a set top box (48, 90 – figures 1, 6) including a storage capable to store information associated with each of a plurality of features (parental control options), each feature associated with a room identifier (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc) corresponding to one of the plurality of rooms, the set top box further capable to receive and interpret a command signal (i.e., receiving a command signal for parental control selection), the television screen layout including an interactive menu (see figures 18a-18b) displaying a plurality of room identifiers (as shown in figure 13) and associated features (see figures 18a-18b), the set top box capable to transmit the television screen layout (since the set top box of primary user television equipment may be assigned as a master device, the set top box of primary user television equipment controls the program guide settings for other rooms), the set top box cable of executing the feature based on a received and interpreted command signal indicative of a selected feature, the executed feature occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding room (it is noted that the set top box of primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the executed function occurs within the primary user television equipment rather than the corresponding physical room - see 0012, 0072, 0089, 0095-0100);

a television (52, 92 – see figures 3, 6) including a television screen, the television communicatively coupled to the set top box and capable to receive the television screen layout from the set top box and capable to display the television screen layout on the television screen (see figures 3, 6, 0091); and

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a user input device (remote control 54) communicatively coupled to the set top box and capable to capable to detect a user input and capable to convert the user input into the command signal and transmit the command signal to the set top box (see figure 1, 0066).

Regarding claim 46, Ellis shows that the information associated with each feature includes indicia of whether the feature is active or inactive (as shown in figures 18a-18b, a blocked channel is represented by an X).

Regarding claim 47, Ellis discloses that the set top box is further capable to update the indicia of whether the feature is active or inactive based upon the command signal received from the user input device (the user can adjust or update the feature of blocking or hiding the channels by pressing the enter key on remote control 54 at his/her convenience – see figures 18a-18b).

Regarding claim 48, Ellis discloses that the information associated with each feature includes information about an executable application that is invoked when the feature is active and when the user selects the feature (see 0097).

Regarding claim 49, Ellis discloses that the set top box is further capable to update the information about an executable application based upon the command signal received from the user input device (as interpreted above, the set top box of primary user television equipment may be assigned as a master device, the set top box of primary user television equipment controls the program guide settings for other rooms. For example, the user toggles between the blocking and not blocking the channel by pressing the enter key on remote control, the set top box is capable to update the information about an executable application based upon the command signal received from the remote control - see 0089, 0097).

Regarding claim 51, Ellis discloses that the set top box is further capable to update or change the room identifier associated with the room (see 0092).

Regarding claim 52, Ellis discloses that the set top box storage (within the set top box) is further capable to store indicia of whether at least one of the plurality of room identifiers is password protected (see 0096).

Regarding claim 53, Ellis discloses that the set top box storage (within the set top box) is further capable to store a password associated with one of the plurality of room identifiers (see 0096).

Regarding claim 54, Ellis discloses that the set top box is further capable to provide user access to each of the plurality of features associated with one of the plurality of room identifiers that is password protected, if the interpretation of the command signal received from the user input device results in a determination that the user has entered the password associated with the one of the plurality of the room identifiers (see figure 17 and 0096).

Regarding claim 55, Ellis discloses that the information associated with each of a plurality of features is stored in a settings table comprising a plurality of table entries, each table entry associated with one of the plurality of features and further associated with one of the plurality of the room identifiers (see 0096-0100).

Regarding claim 56, Ellis discloses that the set top box is further capable to: determine which of the plurality of features are active (blocking or hiding channels); and format the television screen layout to include features of the plurality of features that are active (representing an X – as shown in figures 18a-18b).

Regarding claim 57, Ellis discloses that the set top box is further capable to: determine which features of the plurality of features are associated with one of the plurality of the room identifiers (set channel, maximum rating or monitoring viewing options); determine which features of the plurality of features associated with one of the plurality of the room identifiers are active (see 0097-0099); and format a television screen layout including those features

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associated with the one of the plurality of room identifiers that are also active (see figures 18a-18b).

Regarding claim 58, Ellis discloses a method of providing a home-style user interface to a user of an interactive television system, the method comprising: displaying an interactive menu (300) having a plurality of room identifiers (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see 0010-0015); in response to a selection of a room identifier, displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected room identifier (see figure 28, 0122); accepting user input including a selection of one of the at least one active feature (selection of general/service "on"); and invoking an executable application associated with the selected active feature, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0013, 0072, 0089).

Regarding claim 59, Ellis discloses displaying indicia of each of the plurality of room identifiers that has at least one associated active feature; and accepting user input including a selection of indicia for one of the plurality of room identifiers that has at least one associated active feature; and wherein: the displaying of the indicia of each of the plurality of active features comprises displaying each active feature associated with the selected one of the room identifiers (see figures 28 and 0122).

Regarding claim 60, Ellis discloses an article of manufacture, comprising: a machine-

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readable medium (within set top box – see 0064) having stored thereon instructions to: display an interactive menu (300) having a plurality of room identifiers (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see 0010-0015); in response to a selection of a room identifier, displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected room identifier (see figure 28, 0122); accept user input including a selection of one of the at least one active feature (selection of general/service “on”); and invoke an executable application associated with the selected active feature, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0013, 0072, 0089).

Regarding claim 61, Ellis discloses displaying indicia of each of the plurality of room identifiers that has at least one associated active feature; and accepting user input including a selection of indicia for one of the plurality of room identifiers that has at least one associated active feature; and wherein: the displaying of the indicia of each of the plurality of active features comprises displaying each active feature associated with the selected one of the room identifiers (see figures 28 and 0122).

Regarding claim 62, Ellis discloses an apparatus for providing a home-style user interface to a user of an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising: means for displaying an interactive menu (300) having a plurality of room identifiers (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a

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home (i.e., parent room, children room, kitchen, guest room, living room...etc - see 0010-0015); means for displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected room identifier in response to a selection of a room identifier (see figure 28, 0122); communicatively coupled to the display means, means for selecting one of at least one active feature (selection of general/service "on"); and communicatively coupled to the selection means, means for invoking an executable application associated with the selected active feature, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0013, 0072, 0089).

Regarding claim 63, Ellis discloses a method of customizing a home-style user interface provided for a user of an interactive television system, the method comprising: storing a status indicator (within set top box of the primary user television equipment) for each of at least one feature associated with one of a plurality room identifiers (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home, the status indicator including information about whether the feature is active or inactive (on or off) (see 0072, 0089, 0092); displaying setup indicia associated with the feature, the setup indicia including the status indicator information about whether the feature is active or inactive (see figure 28); selecting the setup indicia associated with the feature; updating the status indicator for the feature from active to inactive, or from inactive to active (adjusting or changing between "on" and "off", and invoking an executable application associated with the selected active feature, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than



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the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0013, 0072, 0089, 0092).

Regarding claim 64, Ellis discloses an article of manufacture, comprising: a machine-readable medium (within set top box – 0064) having stored thereon instructions to: store a status indicator (within set top box of the primary user television equipment) for each of at least one feature associated with one of a plurality room identifiers (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home, the status indicator including information about whether the feature is active or inactive (on or off) (see 0072, 0089, 0092); display setup indicia associated with the feature, the setup indicia including the status indicator information about whether the feature is active or inactive (see figure 28); accept user input including a selection of the setup indicia associated with the feature (selection of general/service “on”); update the status indicator for the feature from active to inactive, or from inactive to active (adjusting or changing between “on” and “off”, and invoke an executable application associated with the selected active feature, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0013, 0072, 0089, 0092).

Regarding claim 65, Ellis discloses an apparatus for providing a home-style user interface to a user of an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising: means for storing a status indicator (within set top box of the primary user television equipment) for each of at least one feature associated with one of a plurality room identifiers (i.e., parent's room, children's room, guest's room...etc), each room identifier corresponding to a physical room in a home, the status indicator including information about whether the feature is active or inactive (on or off) (see 0072, 0089, 0092); communicatively coupled to the storage means, means for displaying setup indicia associated with the feature, the setup indicia including the status indicator information about whether the feature is active or inactive (see figure 28); communicatively coupled to the display means, means for selecting the setup indicia associated with the feature; communicatively coupled to the selection means, means for updating the status indicator for the feature from active to inactive, or from inactive to active (adjusting or changing between "on" and "off", and invoking an executable application associated with the selected active feature, the executable application occurring within the interactive television system rather than the corresponding physical room (it is noted that the primary user television equipment may be set as the master device. This allows the parent to control settings or the program guide functions for a particular location or room in the house. Accordingly, the interactive television system or the primary user television equipment executes the function in response to the selected function rather than the corresponding physical room – see 0013, 0072, 0089, 0092).

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Humpleman et al. (US 6,182,094 B1) teach a method and system for generating a program guide for a home network. Inoue et al. (US 6,844,807 B2) teach a home electronics system enabling rapid execution of remote control of controlled devices. Fujita et al. (US 5,500,794 A) teach an apparatus for distributing control menus over multi-channel distribution network throughout a home.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoc K. Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-7306. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ngoc K. Vu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ngoc K. Vu  
Primary Examiner  
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February 6, 2006